

# **Central Falls School District Board of Trustees**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2013**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call-** The meeting opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Sonia Rodrigues, Anna Cano Morales, Stephanie Gonzalez, and Hugo Figueroa. Carlos Tobon and Ana-Cecilia Rosado were absent.

**II. Pledge**

**III. Recognitions:** Chair Cano Morales announced for the record that Edwin Africano, Valedictorian, Class of 2013, was accepted to MIT; Alvaro Soto, was named State Champion, Shakespeare Competition and would travel to New York for national exposure; the Calcutt Chess team won the first place in the State Competition.

**IV. Approval of the meeting minutes of February 26, 2013 and March 12, 2013-** A motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2013 was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Grace and approved with Mr. Figueroa abstaining. (3,0,1) A motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2013 was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez and approved . (4,0)

**V. Approval of personnel actions** - There were none.

**VI. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget** - A motion to approve the payment of the bills was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa and approved. (4,0)

**VII. Presentation and request from the CF Cheerleaders** – A contingent of the 22 member cheerleading squad in attendance spoke

to the Trustees along with their three coaches led by Ms. Dana Vasconcelos. They presented letters and the Trustees viewed a video clip of their practices and performances. They requested permission to become self-funded though still tied to the school, conforming to all school rules and regulations. Their coaches supported the students in this request volunteering their time and effort without compensation for the upcoming school year. The girls present spoke of how cheerleading competition had helped them overcome their fears, build trust in their peers, and allowed them grow in confidence. This year they cheered for our football, soccer, and basketball teams. A motion to approve the self-funding of the cheerleading squad and accept its continuance as a recognized part of school sports was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez, and approved. (4,0)

VIII. Approval of 2013-2014 Academic Calendar- A motion for approval of the calendar was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the need for a study group to determine and develop a recommended academic year calendar for 2014-2015 that better suited the need of this community. Discussion focused on eliminating the February break and expanding the December January break to support the needs of this community in the celebration of their faith holiday traditions which do not conform to the typical American Christmas break. Dr. Gallo agreed to pursue this study with parents, students, and teachers. The vote was called and approved. (4,0)

IX. Overview of the ACLU Report on Internet Access and its implications for district policy – Mr. St. Jean reviewed the recent

**ACLU Report : ACCESS DENIED.** Mr. St Jean advised us that all schools are required by federal law to provide internet filtering. He stated that the ACLU Report was looking for more uniformity and accountability. Mr. St. Jean advised the Board that a new technology plan was forthcoming that would deal with recommended policy changes in this area as well as a host of other topics. He fully expected that instead of one overarching policy on internet use, there would be three so as to address the specific needs of elementary, middle and high school students. Mr. St Jean also spoke of possibly establishing our own filtering device in order to provide more override option to teachers. The key is to determine how much filtering impedes learning.

**X. Monthly Budget Report - none**

**XI. Full presentation of the FY 14 budget -** Dr. Gallo stated that the final buget was sent back to the drawing board after the RFP for Health Insurance turned up flat with no insurers providing any bid to the Central Falls Schools. She attributed this to the unfortunately high claims in the most recent past associated with our school personnel. The problem exasperated the budget construction since nearly \$0.75M savings was hoped for in this area. With that assumption lost, the district must return to the scour the budget making more cuts in order to present a balance budget to the Trustees at a later date.

**XII. Building Committee Update and Approval of bills for payment-** There was no update in this area.

**XIII. Board Comments –** None were made, though Sonia Grace had to

**leave the meeting.**

**XIV. Public Comments- There were none.**

**XV. No executive session was called as only three Trustees remained.**

**XVI. Next Meeting: April 23, 2013 – The Budget remains the main topic of the agenda**

**XVII. Adjournment – At 7 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Meeting adjourned.**